

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SCCT-02 SY-04 USSS-00 IO-14

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 AID-20 FBIE-00 A-01 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SCA-01 DRC-01 /124 W

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O 301647Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1598

INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0290

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4002

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: HUTCHISON CASE

REF: A. STATE 214718; B. SD 3989

1. CAN UNDERSTAND DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN RE POLICE ACTIVITIES AROUND CONSULATE EARLY THIS MORNING. NOTWITHSTANDING FIRM ASSURANCES OBTAINED FROM QUEZADA YESTERDAY REPORTED REFTEL (B), LAST NIGHT I INTENSIFIED CONTINUOUS EMBASSY SURVEILLANCE OF AREA AROUND VENEZUELAN CONSULATE TO INSURE THAT I WOULD BE INFORMED OF ANY CHANGES IN THE SITUATION IN THE AREA AND COULD REACT PROMPTLY.

2. ONE OF OUR LOOKOUTS REPORTED BETWEEN 3:30 AND 4 A.M. THAT UNARMED TROOPS AND SANDBAGS WERE MOVING INTO THE AREA AND THAT BAGS WERE BEING PLACED ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE ENTRANCE TO THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE. OUR LOOKOUT WAS ABLE TO TALK WITH A POLICE MAJOR ON THE SCENE WHO APPEARED RELAXED THOUGH SOME SPECIAL FORCE TROOPS WERE OBSERVED.

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3. I IMMEDIATELY CALLED QUEZADA WHO IN TURN CALLED POLICE

CHIEF GUZMAN WHO ASSURED ME THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN INSTRUCTIONS TO POLICE. I THEN PRECEDED TO THE AREA MYSELF AND WAS ABLE TO TALK WITH THE POLICE COLONEL IN CHARGE AND TO SEE FOR MYSELF THAT THE SITUATION WAS SUBSTANTIALLY UNCHANGED EXCEPT FOR SANDBAG TRENCH WHICH HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED OPPOSITE THE CONSULATE. THERE WERE ALSO SOME SPECIAL FORCES OF THE NATIONAL POLICE (WHO WEAR A CAMOUFLAGE COMBAT UNIFORM LIKE THAT WORN BY SPECIAL FORCE MILITARY TROOPS). THE SANDBAG TRENCH WAS NOT MANNED AND I WAS INFORMED BY THE POLICE COLONEL THAT HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO PUT ANYBODY BEHIND THE SANDBAGS AND TO MOVE THEM IF THERE WAS ANY SIGN OF NERVOUSNESS INSIDE. HE SAID THE SANDBAGS WERE THERE FOR THE "PROTECTION OF OUR OWN PEOPLE." I THEN TELEPHONED GUZMAN WHO CONFIRMED TO ME THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN HIS INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO UNDERTAKE ANY FORCEFUL ACTION.

4. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS I WENT TO GUZMAN'S OFFICE AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND HAD AN INTERESTING LITTLE CHAT WITH HIM DURING WHICH HE TOLD ME THE FOLLOWING, MAINLY IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERIES. HE REITERATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS TO THE POLICE, THE SANDBAGS WERE PURELY PROTECTIVE. HE HAD DIRECTED THE POLICE TO PERMIT CIGARETTES, PENICILLIN AND MORE WATER TO ENTER THE CONSULATE IN ADDITION TO SANDWICHES AND SOFT DRINKS. IT APPEARED THAT ONE OF THE TERRORISTS HAD WOUNDED HIMSELF IN THE FOOT WITH AN ACCIDENTAL GUN DISCHARGE. FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE DOCTOR, GUZMAN HAD AUTHORIZED PENICILLIN TO BE PASSED INTO THE BUILDING. MENDEZ VARGAS HAD NOT RPT NOT COMMUNICATED ANY DEADLINE TO THE GOVERNMENT. THE ONLY TIME GUZMAN HAD SPOKEN TO MENDEZ WAS 5 MINUTES AFTER THE CAPTORS TOOK OVER THE CONSULATE SEPTEMBER 27. POWER HAD BEEN SHUT OFF FROM THE CONSULATE. THE TELEPHONES WERE WORKING BUT CALLS TO THE CONSULATE WERE NOT BEING ANSWERED. WHEN I ASKED HOW A MESSAGE WOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO THE GUERRILLAS, PERHAPS THROUGH MGR. POLANCO, GUZMAN INDICATED THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE BUT THE SITUATION WOULD BECOME CLEARER IN THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. I VISUALIZED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SANDBAGS WERE BROUGHT FOR PROTECTIVE COVER IF DECISION WAS REACHED TO EXCHANGE SAFE CONDUCT TO THE GUERRILLAS FOR RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES. TO THIS GUZMAN ONLY SMILED CRYPTICALLY.

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5. SHOWING MORE PRONOUNCED HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS THAN HAD BEEN EVIDENT DURING THE PREVIOUS 3 DAYS, GUZMAN THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT HELP TO RELIEVE THE DISCOMFORT OF THE HOSTAGES IF 6 MATTRESSES WERE SENT IN TO THEM. I IMMEDIATELY REJOINED THAT THIS WAS A GREAT IDEA AND I WOULD BE GLAD TO PROVIDE THE MATTRESSES, WHEREUPON HE STATED THAT HE WOULD GIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORIZE THE ENTRY. I ALSO SUGGESTED TO GUZMAN THAT STATE-

MENTS BE RECORDED OF THE 9 POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO HAD DECLARED THAT THEY DID NOT WISH TO BE RELEASED AND SENT OUT OF THE COUNTRY UNDER THE CONDITIONS POSED IN THE DEMANDS OF THE GUERRILLAS (SD 3983) AND THAT THESE TAPED STATEMENTS BE SENT IN A MESSAGE TO MENDEZ VARGAS, ALSO THAT A CLIPPING FROM THE NEWSPAPER "EL CARIBE" REPORTING THE DECLARATION OF THESE 9 PRISONERS BE SENT INTO THE CONSULATE WITH A FOOD DELIVERY.

6. GUZMAN CONFIDED THAT HE HAD IN HIS POSSESSION THE NOTE THROWN OUT OF THE WINDOW BY THE VENEZUELAN CONSUL ADDRESSED TO THE VENEZUELAN CHARGE. CAUTIONING THAT I SHOULD SAY NOTHING ABOUT THIS, SINCE THIS LETTER HAD NOT EVEN BEEN SHOWN TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER YET, GUZMAN LET ME READ IT. IT WAS SIMILAR IN SUBSTANCE TO BARBARA HUTCHISON'S FIRST NOTE TO ME BUT EMPHASIZED DISCOMFORT AND INCREASING NERVOUSNESS OF THE HOSTAGES. IT ALSO SAID THAT THERE WAS A SICK PERSON IN THE CONSULATE AND THERE WAS FEAR THAT THE SICKNESS MIGHT BE CONTAGIOUS.

7. FINALLY, I EMPHASIZED TO GUZMAN THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF OUR BEING IN DIRECT IMMEDIATE CONTACT TO WHICH HE RESPONDED THAT HE WAS IN FULL AGREEMENT AND THAT I SHOULD CALL HIM DIRECTLY WHENEVER I FELT IT NECESSARY.

8. FROM WHAT I HAVE HEARD AND OBSERVED DIRECTLY THIS MORNING, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO INITIATE FORCEFUL ACTION AGAINST THE CONSULATE. I WILL CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE POINTS IN PARA 2 DURING MY CONTACTS WITH DOMINICAN OFFICIALS TODAY.

9. FOREGOING CONFIRMS COMMUNICATIONS WITH OPCEN EARLY THIS MORNING.

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